

Message Text

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ORIGIN SMI-01

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 IO-11 NSAE-00 USIA-06

ISO-00 ABF-01 NEA-10 AID-05 EUR-12 FS-01 AGR-05

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 HEW-02 HUD-01

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SMI:OIP:KBSCHMERTZ

SMI:GEN.COUNSEL:AULLBERG (SUBSTANCE

M/FRM/FM:RWHITENER (SUBSTANCE)

NEA:EGY:GBROWN (SUBSTANCE)

ARCE:LBROWN (PHONE)

AID/SER/FM:THOMAS R BLACKA

SMI:OIP:LMAKEPEACE

SMI:OPB:JJAMESON

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P 272352Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORD,AFIN,UNESCO, OCON,SCUL

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN/SFCP - THIRD U. S. CONTRIBUTION TO
PHILAE PROJECT IN EGYPT

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1. IN VIEW IMMINENCE PARIS MEETING MARCH 4-5 OF EXECUTIVE

COMMITTEE UNESCO NUBIAN CAMPAIGN, SMITHSONIAN URGENTLY SEEKS ADVICE US PERM REP AND EMBASSY CAIRO CONCERNING METHOD CONVEY TO GOE POSSIBLE THIRD CONTRIBUTION US DOLS 1,000,000 EQUIVALENT IN EGYPTIAN POUNDS FOR PHILAE. REQUEST INCLUDED IN PRESIDENT'S FY 1977 BUDGET REQUEST TO THE CONGRESS. SIMILAR ITEM IN FY 1976 SMITHSONIAN APPROPRIATION REQUEST WAS ELIMINATED BY THE CONGRESS AS CONTRARY TO TERMS OF PL-93-559 PROHIBITING PAYMENTS TO UNESCO.

2. SMITHSONIAN REQUESTS NO REPEAT NO PARIS OR CAIRO ANNOUNCEMENTS THIS APPROPRIATION REQUEST PENDING ITS DECISION ON METHOD CONVEY EVENTUAL CONTRIBUTION.

3. NEW SMITHSONIAN APPROPRIATION REQUEST PROPOSES MAKE THIS CONTRIBUTION AVAILABLE TO THE GOE DIRECTLY, IN CONTRAST PREVIOUS PAYMENTS FUNNELLED THROUGH UNESCO NUBIAN TRUST FUND. NUBIAN TRUST FUND ACCOUNTS SHOW OTHER

CONTRIBUTIONS MADE DIRECTLY TO GOE IN PAST. SMITHSONIAN CONTENTION IS THAT U.S. CONTRIBUTION MADE DIRECTLY TO GOE WOULD COMPLY WITH TERMS OF PL-93-559 SINCE PROGRAM TO SAFEGUARD NUBIAN MONUMENTS HAS ALWAYS BEEN GOE PROGRAM IN EVERY RESPECT. UNESCO INVOLVED ONLY AS INTERNATIONAL FUND RAISER PASSING ALONG TO GOE FULL AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTIONS, WITHOUT DEDUCTIONS FOR HANDLING.

4. SMITHSONIAN APPROPRIATIONS HEARINGS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 18 (HOUSE) AND 23 (SENATE). ASSUMING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL BUDGET ITEM FOR PHILAE, SMITHSONIAN PROPOSES TRANSMIT FUNDS TO NUBIAN ACCOUNT OF GOE ANTIQUITIES ORGANIZATION THROUGH EITHER THE AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT (ARCE) OR DIRECTLY FROM EMBASSY.

5. SMITHSONIAN INCLINED MAKE CONTRIBUTION THROUGH ARCE WHICH WOULD PROVIDE 1) FULL AND DIRECT MONITORING BY U.S. SCHOLARS OF SALVAGE AND ARCHEOLOGY, AND BY ARCE ACCOUNTANT OF FINANCIAL PROCEDURES; AND 2) REPORTING TO THE SMITHSONIAN IN MORE DETAIL THAN NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNESCO CHANNELS.

6. ARCE PRESIDENT BERGER, VICE PRESIDENT SIMPSON AND U.S. DIRECTOR BROWN RECENTLY INFORMED SMITHSONIAN THAT ARCE ROLE WOULD BENEFIT ARCE POSITION IN EGYPT. ARCE HAS CLOSEST TIES WITH ANTIQUITIES ORGANIZATION AND THEREFORE APPEARS IDEAL CHANNEL FOR PHILAE FUNDS. ONLY QUESTION OCCURRING SMITHSONIAN IS THAT ROLE AS PHILAE

FINANCE MONITOR MIGHT INVOLVE ARCE IN DIFFICULTIES WITH
ANTIQUITIES ORGANIZATION TO DETRIMENT OTHER ARCE PROJECTS.

7. ALTERNATIVELY, DIRECT CAIRO EMBASSY TRANSFER TO

ANTIQUITIES ORGANIZATION MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN IN ORDER
INSURE OFFICIAL U.S.G. MONITORING OF ACCOUNTS, AS FOR
AID PROJECTS, AND TO AVOID PUTTING ARCE UNNECESSARILY
IN POSITION COMPLICATING ITS GOOD RELATIONS WITH
ANTIQUITIES ORGANIZATION. TRANSFER OF FUNDS AND FINANCIAL
MONITORING BY EMBASSY/AID HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH AID
CONTROLLER BLACKA WHO IS RECEPTIVE IF CAIRO MISSION
WILLING CONSIDER THIS ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

8. U.S. PERMDEL AND AMEMBASSY CAIRO REACTIONS REQUESTED.
DORMAN, ARCE CAIRO ALSO BEING QUERIED BY PRINCETON
EADQUARTERS. INGERSOLL

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